

Montana Drought Advisory Committee



USDA, NASS, Montana
Field Office

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Director

May 1, 2008



Montana

Prospective Plantings

March 2008

	2008 Intentions (1,000)	2007 Planted (1,000)	% Change
All Wheat	5,780	5,170	+12
Winter Wheat	2,700	2,240	+21
Durum Wheat	630	480	+31
Other Spring Wheat	2,450	2,450	0
Barley	860	900	-4

May 1, 2008



Montana Prospective Plantings March 2008

Planted acres	2008	2007	%Change
All hay (harvest) (million ac)	2.60	2.55	+2
Sugar beets	35,800	47,500	-25
Dry edible beans	13,000	18,300	-29
Canola	4,000	8,000	-50
Flaxseed	14,000	21,000	-33

May 1, 2008



Crop Weather Report

April 14, 2008

- Producers are getting started on fieldwork
- Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions significantly behind last year
- Winter wheat condition well behind last year and five-year average



Winter Wheat Crop Progress Behind Last Year

April 14, 2008	This week	Last week	Last Year
Dormant	41%	62%	8%
Greening	49%	35%	35%
Greening & Growing	10%	3%	57%

May 1, 2008



Field Tillage Progress

Ahead of last year

April 14, 2008	This week	Last week	Last Year	5 Yr Avg
None	47%	72%	66%	54%
Just Started	40%	21%	20%	25%
Well Underway	13%	7%	14%	21%

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Winter Wheat

Condition well behind last year & the five-year average

April 14, 2008	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	7%	13%	43%	33%	4%
Last week	7%	16%	47%	26%	4%
Last year	0%	4%	29%	54%	13%
5-yr avg	3%	7%	36%	44%	10%

May 1, 2008



Seeding Completed

*Nearly the same as last year and the
five-year average*

April 14, 2008	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Barley	16%	5%	13%	17%
Oats	4%	2%	4%	7%
Spring Wheat	9%	8%	6%	9%

May 1, 2008



Topsoil Moisture

Significantly behind last year and the five-year average

April 14, 2008	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short	32%	30%	3%	10%
Short	39%	44%	12%	24%
Adequate	29%	26%	74%	59%
Surplus	0%	0%	11%	7%

May 1, 2008



Subsoil Moisture

Well behind last year & the five-year average

April 14, 2008	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short	37%	45%	9%	22%
Short	44%	39%	27%	33%
Adequate	19%	15%	60%	43%
Surplus	0%	1%	4%	2%

May 1, 2008



Livestock Grazing

April 14, 2008

- Pasture & range conditions behind last year and the five-year average
- 78% of grazing land open - nearly the same as last year and the five-year average
- 92% cattle & calves & 92% sheep & lambs receiving supplemental feed



Calving & Lambing completed by *April 14, 2008*

- 76% of cows have calved
- 58% of ewes have lambed
- Calving & lambing rates nearly the same as last year and the five-year average



Range & Pasture Feed Condition

Behind last year

April 14, 2008	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	15%	36%	35%	12%	2%
Last week	12%	34%	40%	12%	2%
Last year	2%	20%	41%	31%	6%

May 1, 2008



To Sum It Up

- Most grazing land open
- Most livestock receiving supplemental feed
- Cool temperatures have slowed growing conditions for winter wheat

Conditions look better with moisture!



May 1, 2008